

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

180 Promenade Circle, Suite 115
Sacramento, CA 95834-2939



July 12, 2011

File Number: G.11-05-002
City of Azusa, Los Angeles County

Christopher Burner
Chief Project Officer
Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority
406 E. Huntington Drive, Suite 202
Monrovia, CA 91016-3633

Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Virginia Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101PA-117.60 and DOT No. 026224X, in the City of Azusa, Los Angeles County.

Dear Mr. Burner:

This refers to your letter, dated May 11, 2011 (received on May 12, 2011), requesting authorization, pursuant to Commission General Order (GO) 88-B, to modify the existing Virginia Avenue at-grade crossing of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) Pasadena to Azusa subdivision tracks in the City of Azusa (City), Los Angeles County. The crossing is currently identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101PA-117.60 and DOT No. 026224X.

The Virginia Avenue at-grade crossing is a two lane roadway traversing two existing freight tracks. Currently the crossing is equipped with two curb mounted Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning devices, and advance warning pavement markings and signage. There are no raised medians on either the north or south approach to the crossing. LACMTA owns the right-of-way, which is currently used only for freight rail service by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) freight trains. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) does not operate trains over this crossing, however since LACMTA is a member agency of SCRRA, SCRRA does and will continue the dispatching and maintenance along this line.

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Foothill Construction Authority) as Trustee to the LACMTA proposes the following alterations:

- Remove one existing freight track and relocate remaining freight track to southern portion of right-of-way;
- Install two light rail transit tracks north of remaining single freight track;
- Install concrete panel crossing surfaces for the single freight track and two light rail tracks;
- Install an Overhead Catenary System (OCS) for 750 volt DC power;
- Install fencing along the right of way and hand railing along the crossing approaches to prevent trespassing, as shown in plans;
- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9A (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate arm and additional flashers on cantilever) warning device for the southbound vehicular approach, with 12" LED flashing lights, at the northwest quadrant of the crossing;

- Install one new curb mounted Commission Standard 9A warning device for the northbound vehicular approach, with 12" LED flashing lights, at the southeast quadrant of the crossing;
- Install curb mounted Commission Standard 9E (Commission Standard 9 installed on the departure side of the at-grade crossing, also known as an exit gate) warning devices on the southwest and northeast quadrants of the crossing with vehicle presence detection system;
- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint sidewalks on both sides of the crossing;
- Install ADA compliant standard detectable warning tactile strips on all sidewalk approaches to the crossing;
- Install Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gate warning devices in combination with swing gate on all four sidewalk approaches to the crossing; and
- Application of MUTCD compliant signage and pavement markings, including W10-1 advance warning signs, W48 (CA) 3 tracks signs, and RxR pavement markings.

After the completion of the alterations, and acceptance by LACMTA, the operation and maintenance of the two light rail tracks and OCS will be the responsibility of LACMTA. The proposed new crossing identification number for the light rail crossing is CPUC Crossing No. 84P-23.37.

As an agent of LACMTA, SCRRA will continue with the dispatch and maintenance responsibilities of the existing freight mainline track. The existing freight crossing will continue to be identified as CPUC Crossing No. 101PA-117.60 and DOT No. 026224X.

The Commission's Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) investigated the request by Foothill Construction Authority and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As Foothill Construction Authority, LACMTA, SCRRA, BNSF and City are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, the improvements as described in your request dated May 11, 2011 and summarized above are authorized.

Temporary traffic controls shall be provided in compliance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD), published by the California Department of Transportation. All parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including Commission General Orders and CA MUTCD.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended. [California Public Resources Code 21084]

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. Any written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by involved parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCES may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, Foothill Construction Authority shall notify RCES that the authorized work is completed, by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G

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title *Report of Changes at Highway Grade Crossings and Separation*. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site Form G page at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/formg>. This report may be submitted electronically to rces@cpuc.ca.gov as outlined on the web page.

SCRRA should also submit an updated FRA inventory form to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. CPUC requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to rces@cpuc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Pereyra at 213-576-7083 or jfp@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Daren Gilbert, Manager
Rail Transit and Crossings Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

- C: Habib Balian, Foothill Construction Authority, 406 E. Huntington Drive, Suite 202, Monrovia, CA 91016
- John Miller, LACMTA, One Gate Plaza – Mail Stop: 99-18-8, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Francis Delach, City of Azusa, 213 E. Foothill Boulevard, Azusa, CA 91702
- Melvin Thomas, BNSF Railway Company, 740 East Carnegie Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408
- Naresh Patel, P.E., SCRRA, 279 E. Arrow Highway, Suite A, San Dimas, CA 91773